



'IMPORTANT INTERVENTION'

People turned out in the hundreds to protest the ruling by Judge Gregory Lenehan.
JEFF HARPER/METRO



Less than a month after a **Halifax judge acquitted a taxi driver of sexually assaulting a young woman** who was passed out in his cab because there wasn't enough evidence to show a 'lack of consent,' local advocates are applauding a national report recommending all judges and RCMP officers receive training on gender-based violence and sexual assault

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Special wish with turtle power

TRAVEL

Four-year-old with cancer will be flying to Disney World

Grace Gormley
For Metro | Halifax

Cole Wittenburg was all smiles as his four heroes, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, made a special appearance at his Children's Wish ceremony.

The 4-year-old Coldbrook boy, who was diagnosed with a recurrent Rhabdomyosarcoma, received his wish at the Investor's Group Tuesday surrounded by family and friends.

Wittenburg and his family will be heading to Disney this Thursday as part of their gift, and his mom Kaleena says Cole is pretty excited for his first plane ride.

"A few weeks ago, we didn't think this was going to happen," she said.

It was just last Tuesday that Kaleena and Cole's father, Ryan, weren't sure their little boy was even going to make it through another week.

"It was very touch and go," Kaleena said.

Cole has multiple tumours in his lung, with a large six-centimetre tumour sitting on top of his right lobe, cutting off his windpipe and collapsing his lung. After urgent radiation, the tumour has shrunk, causing the collapse to go back down and his windpipe to open.

"He's doing amazing now," she added.

This was easy to see as Cole giggled during all of the surprises of the day, one of them being a scheduled meet and greet with Buzz Lightyear during his trip. Another was a giant Ninja Turtle cake.

One of the most heartfelt surprises were four hand-painted Ninja Turtle canvases, all four feet in height.

Jamie McKay from Truro had seen a post about Cole on Facebook, and thought her paintings would be a perfect fit for the boy's room. McKay was inspired because she said she knows what it's like to be a mom.

"It's a much better use for them," she said.

"Which one's your favourite?" a family member asked Cole.



Cole Wittenburg with his mother Kaleena and father Ryan during a Children's Wish announcement Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"Raphael," he pointed. The family laughed, while also wiping their tears away.

"It's extremely touching," said Cheryl Matthews, provincial director for the Children's Wish Foundation.

Matthews said the Foundation knows how much these things means to the family, and says each wish is very unique.

"We try to make it very special, and we did as much as we can from home," she said.

Matthews said the Foundation wouldn't be able to make these dreams into reality without their partners. Blue Cross presented Cole with his travel documents, and will be making sure he stays healthy while in Florida.

"Truthfully without Blue Cross, nationally these wishes would

just not happen," she said.

Because of Cole's medical condition, Matthews said they were waiting to get the green light from his doctor for a few weeks.

"We were ready to rock 'n' roll," she said about finally getting the go-ahead.

Although it's impossible to meet the actual Ninja Turtles at Disney, Children's Wish is trying to pull some strings. The real Raphael spoke to Cole on the phone a few days ago.

"We are really hoping to pull the turtles out of the hiatus down there," Matthews laughed.

As for Cole, he seems happy to meet some of his other favourite Disney characters.

"Buzz Lightyear, and Lightning McQueen too!" Cole said.



Cole Wittenburg is all smiles during Tuesday's Children's Wish announcement. JEFF HARPER/METRO



We're going to enjoy him being a little boy for a while longer.

Kaleena Wittenburg

Former Liberal leader has friends in high places

Struggling non profits should get some of his bloated wage

HALIFAX MATTERS

Tristan Cleveland



I don't doubt Danny Graham is good at his job. But he's not as good as four people combined. Last week, the Progressive Conservative Party revealed that Graham is paid \$160,000 a year by the province for his role as Chief Engagement Officer with Engage Nova Scotia, a non-profit he helped start.

That's four times as high as the average salary for small charities in Canada and twice as high as executive directors for non-profits.

Engage NS has been charged with working on solutions for the Ivany Report.

They were not selected to do this work as part of competitive process in which their proposal — including Graham's salary — was considered better than alternatives. They were chosen, and Graham is paid that much, because as a former Liberal leader, he has friends in government.

Is the work worth the cost? Premier Stephen McNeil told the CBC, "It's always difficult to be able to say, 'That happened because of this.'"

That's funny, because the Liberals have cut the funding for plenty of organizations that have no problem saying "that happened because of this." Hope Blooms, the Aids Coalition Cape Breton, the



Danny Graham is being paid \$160,000 as the Chief Engagement Officer for Engage NS. The figure is angering many, as funding has been cut from such charitable organizations as Hope Blooms, the Aids Coalition Cape Breton, the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia and more. CONTRIBUTED

“

It is frustrating to see Danny Graham, who I'm sure is good at what he does, being paid so much.

Michelle Hébert Boyd

Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia, and more.

But let's look at just one, Eating Disorders Nova Scotia. They had their tiny provincial grant slashed by \$11,500, or 23 per cent, in 2015.

And yet, they save the government money. According

to their Executive Director, Michelle Hébert Boyd, each person they support costs only \$500 to \$800 — total — because they rely on volunteers who have themselves survived eating disorders. Compare that to \$170 an hour for a psychologist or \$1,350 a night for hospital beds.

"It's really that upstream approach," Boyd tells me. "It's helping people stay out of the system," added Boyd, who was also the former Senior Advisor to the Minister of Health and Wellness with the NDP.

So what lavish gravy train is Boyd taking home for this thankless work? "I didn't take a salary in January so we can

4

Danny Graham's salary of \$160K is four times as high as the average salary for small charities in Canada and twice as high as executive directors for non-profits.

provide services for young people."

Reducing Graham's wage to a reasonable level could free up a hundred thousand dollars or more per year. I asked Boyd what she could do with that money. "Oh God, we could

operate for a year. We have such low overhead. I work from home."

Here's an idea of what Graham can do with his friends-in-high-places surcharge: he can donate it to the organizations doing essential work whose funding the Liberals cut. And if he wants the social respect that comes with doing good with his very own non-profit, he can accept the same salary less-connected people get.

"It is frustrating to see Danny Graham, who I'm sure is good at what he does, being paid so much," Boyd tells me. "It's hard for all of us in the nonprofit sector." Yeah, no kidding.

EMPLOYMENT

Diverse hiring subsidy boosted

The province is increasing the subsidy available for businesses that hire women, those with disabilities, and diverse recent graduates.

The move is part of a change to the province's Graduate to Opportunity program that provides salary contributions for businesses that hire recent graduates, a release said Tuesday. The program covered 25 per cent of a salary for the first year, and 12.5 per cent in the second.

Tuesday's announcement provides an additional 10 per cent, 35 per cent total, in the first year for diverse hires.

25%

Amount of salary the program will cover in the first year with 12.5 per cent covered in the second year.

This includes women in a non-traditional occupation, persons self-identified as having a disability, racially visible persons, aboriginal persons and international graduates.

"This program has created meaningful career opportunities for hundreds of talented new graduates," said Premier Stephen McNeil in a release.

The program started in 2015 as part of the government Make It Here initiative, aimed at creating opportunities for young Nova Scotians.

"Graduate to Opportunity and other programs like it are part of our strategy to train our youth, keep them home and support the economic growth of our province," said McNeil.

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Willow Tree plan trimmed

DEVELOPMENT

Council votes to take building down to 20 storeys



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

A controversial proposal for the corner of Robie Street and Quinpool Road has shrunk by nine storeys after a debate in Halifax regional council on Tuesday.

By a vote of 13 to four, council voted to approve a recommendation from the Halifax and West community council to take the proposed development for the Willow Tree down from 29 storeys to 62 metres, which is about 20 storeys, and schedule a public hearing on the proposal.

Before the municipal election last fall, the last regional council approved bylaw amendments to allow for a 29-storey development on the site, even though municipal planning staff recommended capping



The Willow Tree development. CONTRIBUTED/WM FARES

it at 20.

During more than an hour of debate, council wrestled with the idea of contravening its earlier decision.

Coun. David Hendsbee argued that taking the max-

imum height down to 20 storeys was a "disservice" to the developer, George Armoyan's Armco.

"We haven't even had an opportunity to hear from the developer in regards to the

economics of building such a building," Hendsbee said.

"Trying to handicap and take one-third of the building capacity away, will probably make the project uneconomical."

Peninsula councillors Lindell

“It’s not our job to guarantee that people make money when they make a speculative purchase.”

Waye Mason

Smith and Waye Mason argued that council shouldn't have those kinds of concerns when it comes to development.

"It's not our job to guarantee that people make money when they make a speculative real estate purchase," Mason said.

"Our role is to decide, 'what do we think, based on the systems and processes, is the best plan for developing in the city?'"

A community group has argued that council should stop approving developments like this one until the municipality's Centre Plan is complete.

The draft plan allows for a 20-storey development at that corner, and Smith argued there was no need to halt development approvals to wait for the plan.

SALARIES

Debate on freeze deferred

Halifax councillors have put a discussion on freezing their salaries on ice.

Coun. Shawn Cleary attempted to make a motion at Tuesday's meeting of Halifax regional council to adopt bylaw amendments to freeze councillors' salaries until they'd debated a report coming about the formula that determines their pay. The motion faced a number of procedural hurdles, and before jumping into any of them, council voted to defer the debate till it gets the report he was referring to.

Council requested that report from CAO Jacques Dubé in November, asking him to take a second look at the recommendations from an independent report commissioned last year on a new formula for determining council and mayoral pay.

Dubé said Tuesday that report would be complete before the end of April.

Councillors received a 3.38 per cent raise last month retroactive to last November.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

RECREATION

Staff report coming on pool problem

The pool of aquatic facilities to pick from in Halifax Regional Municipality is near drained, and council hopes to fix that.

Halifax regional council asked for a staff report Tuesday on the possibility of building a 50-metre pool somewhere in the municipality.

Coun. Tony Mancini brought

the item forward, arguing that with the future of the pool at Dalplex uncertain, and Centennial pool too small for spectators, the municipality needs a facility that would meet the standards for provincial competition.

All councillors seemed to agree that there aren't enough

pools in the municipality to meet demand, and Coun. Lisa Blackburn put it, the "system is squeezed to the max."

Mancini's motion said the options for a 50-metre pool could include building a new facility, or expanding a current one, like the Canada Games Centre.

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

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Advocates hail call for judges training

GENDER

Report on sexual violence makes 45 proposals



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

A report from the House of Commons committee on the status of women recommending all judges and RCMP officers receive mandatory training on gender-based violence and sexual assault is being applauded in Nova Scotia. "We believe that kind of training around gender-based violence is extremely important, not just for judges and law enforcement officers, but for everybody," said Conor Falvey, provincial coordinator with Sexual Health Nova Scotia.

The report Taking Action to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Canada was re-

leased in Ottawa on Monday.

Among the 45 recommendations included in the 143-page report was a call for mandatory education on gender-based and sexual violence for all RCMP officers.

It also urged the federal government to provide funding to the National Judicial Institute to develop training for judges and to encourage all judges to participate.

"It is critically important, particularly given what we know about the way in which so many sexual assault complainants experience the trial process, that judges are competent in terms of their legal knowledge regarding issues like consent and the rape shield provisions and vigilant in their attempts to reduce the role that rape myths continue to play in these cases," said Elaine Craig, associate law pro-

fessor at Dalhousie University.

"That requires training. In my research, for example, I regularly find cases in which judges permit defence lawyers to introduce evidence that should be excluded under Canada's rape shield laws."

Halifax Judge Gregory Lenehan's handling of cab driver Bassam Al-Rawi's case earlier this month and his comments that "clearly a drunk can consent" resulted in nationwide condemnation, protests and petitions. The Crown is appealing the cab driver's acquittal.

"It's not a subject people are going to stop talking about any time soon," Falvey said of the Lenehan verdict.

"Definitely what is required is not just a one-off response ... but this kind of sustained effort. Hopefully this sort of training (will be) a good example of that."



Definitely what is required is not just a one-off response.

Conor Falvey



People turned out in the hundreds to protest the controversial ruling by Judge Gregory Lenehan at Grand Parade earlier this month. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Parent group tracking how money for classrooms is spent

EDUCATION

Spotlight shining on new council's actions



Jonathan Briggs
For Metro | Halifax

Parents supporting Nova Scotia teachers have started a new website to keep track of any developments in classroom conditions.

The Nova Scotia Parents for Teachers group launched the new website, novascotiaparentsforteachers.ca, the same day the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions was scheduled to have its first meeting.

"The reason for this is to inform the public of things that are going on in the education system, and correcting some



A crowd rallies in Grand Parade in February at an event organized by the Nova Scotia group Parents for Teachers. JEFF HARPER/METRO

of the misinformation that's been put out there," said group spokesperson Trish Keeping.

"Our big thing is to get the information out to people so they really understand what

is going on in the classroom and how the kids are being affected."

Nova Scotia Parents for Teachers has a Facebook group that currently has 19,242 members. It's a closed group that accepts people who join, but the contents are not visible to non-members.

"Having it behind closed doors isn't helping members of the public know what's going on," said Keeping.

The website contains a myth buster section outlining four issues the group views as myths and detailed explanations of why they do not believe these issues are misinformation. It also features stories gathered from parents, current teachers, retired teachers, students and recent graduates. Information in French is also included.

Nova Scotia Parents for Teachers plans to closely monitor the actions of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions.

The 14-member council includes nine teachers chosen by school board superintendents, one student, one parent,

a province-appointed guidance counselor and co-chairs from the Department of Education and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

A budget of \$20 million was given to the council over two years, part of the Bill 75 legislation passed by the Liberal gov-



Having it behind closed doors isn't helping members of the public.

Trish Keeping

ernment to end a 16-month contract dispute and the teacher's work-to-rule job action.

"We need to make sure that what they're doing is actually helping with the conditions in the classrooms right now, how long this is going to take and how the money will actually be spent," Keeping said.



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CRIME

High-risk sex offender freed

Nova Scotians, especially those in Halifax and Yarmouth, are being advised of the release of a high-risk offender.

Nova Scotia RCMP said James Andrew MacKay, 36, is being released from the Atlantic Institution in Renous, N.B. on March 22, 2017 after completing a sentence for sexual assault

and other offences.

MacKay has a criminal record dating back to 2000 that includes convictions for uttering threats, assault with a weapon, forcible confinement, and sexual assault. Violent offences have been in the context of intimate relationships.

He has also been assessed

as being at a high risk to re-offend. MacKay will be required to follow strict conditions for a period of two years.

He is described as 5'9, 185 pounds, with green eyes and black hair.

This information is provided to alert people of his presence in the community. METRO

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Dennis Oland arrives at Court of Queen's Bench in Saint John, N.B., in January. Legal experts say the case gives the Supreme Court the chance to come in and clarify the law as it relates to the issue of bail pending appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ruling in Oland case due this week

SUPREME COURT

Judge to decide if appeals court erred in denying bail

The Supreme Court of Canada will rule this week whether New Brunswick's Court of Appeal was wrong in denying bail to Dennis Oland while he was awaiting an appeal of his second-degree murder conviction.

"This is a big deal. It has been decades since the Supreme Court of Canada has taken on the issue of bail pending appeal," said Nicole O'Byrne, a law professor at the University of New Brunswick.

"This case gives the court the opportunity to come in and clarify the law."

Oland, 49, was denied bail by the New Brunswick Court of

Appeal early last year following his conviction in the murder of his father, well-known businessman Richard Oland. The 69-year-old was bludgeoned to death in his Saint John office in 2011.

But Dennis Oland was subsequently granted bail by the same court last October, when his lawyers appealed his conviction and a new trial was ordered. He had spent 11 months in prison.

Even though Dennis Oland had been released on bail, his lawyers proceeded with arguments before the Supreme Court in an effort to get clarity on the issue of bail pending appeal in murder cases.

They say it is rare in Canada — finding none in New Brunswick and only 34 cases in Canada.

Lawyer Alan Gold told the court that his client does not want to be "haunted" by the prospect of another unsuccessful bail hearing if his second murder trial takes an "unfortunate turn."

A cross-section of interveners, including the Criminal Lawyers Association of Ontario and attorneys general from three provinces, all agreed the bail provisions need to be clarified

2018

A new trial is not expected to be held until at least 2018.

by the top court because they are currently interpreted differently across the country.

"This will be a precedent-setting case," said O'Byrne.

She said lawyers are now required to prove exceptional circumstance when seeking release pending appeal.

"If there is an exception for exceptional circumstances such that people could be granted bail pending appeal, is there a better case than Dennis Oland?" she asked. "He has no criminal record, he's proven he can live under bail conditions because he did, and the fact that it has been set down for retrial proves that the appeal is not frivolous."

"This comes down to being a test case on how do you ever grant anybody bail pending appeal if Dennis Oland doesn't fit that criteria?"

The decision is expected Thursday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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This will be a precedent-setting case.

Nicole O'Byrne

Few Liberal measures for the middle class have done much for the middle class.

It would be nice if Wednesday's budget offered some real change for Canadians

ANALYSIS



Paul Wells
Torstar News Service

Wednesday's budget will be about the middle class and innovation. Maybe it'll even be helpful! That would be nice. Unfortunately, the Trudeau government's handling of both files so far has left them in something close to a shambles.

I wrote after Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos gave a presentation about "The State of the Middle

Class." I was probably too kind.

When a tenured academic turned senior cabinet minister delivers a presentation on the middle class that (a) never defines the term "middle class"; (b) never depicts the effects of the government's actions to date on the plight of the middle class, however you want to define it; (c) offers no hint about future efforts to help the middle class — well, that's a fiasco.

The Liberals used to promise that Canadians would be able to track their own progress, using large

numbers of publicly available indicators, on marvellous websites that would be part of a governing philosophy called "deliverology." These days, we get Duclos telling us how polls say we feel. But let no one criticize any Liberal emphasis on feelings. Bloomberg put the question to Bill Morneau, the finance minister, this week, and he was staunch in defending a politics of mood.

"We look at what's gone on around the world" (translator's note: this is every western politician's preferred euphemism for the election of Donald Trump) "is there

anybody who questions that we should be focused on how people feel?" Morneau asked. "What are the outcomes if we don't? So I think we're going to stay on that message."

OK then. I feel worried when I read Duclos's former colleague, the Université Laval economist Stephen Gordon, pointing out in the National Post what the NDP has been saying all along: that few Liberal measures for the middle class have done much for the middle class.

Take what Justin Trudeau likes to call his "middle-class tax cut." Says Gordon: "The

tax cut for the median tax filer — someone reporting total income somewhere around \$45,000 — is either negligible or non-existent." But if you make triple that income, you get the maximum tax benefit.

I feel like maybe we should move on to innovation. This government is the first with a minister for innovation! He's Navdeep Bains. He frequently posts photos of his meetings on Twitter, with the hashtag "#innovation."

A year and a half after he became the minister for #innovation, it's not clear what

Bains's plans are. It's pretty clear that within the government he has less than complete control over #innovation.

Whatever Bains proposes, it will have company. Kevin Page, the former Parliamentary Budget Officer who now runs a policy shop at the University of Ottawa, found that there are already 147 programs and tax credits, worth a combined \$22.6 billion, designed to spur #innovation. That's right now. Today. Already. The accumulated detritus of every former government.

Trump, tighter rules behind refugee surge

There were four times more asylum claimants arriving at land border crossings than at airports in the first two months of 2017, new Canadian data shows.

In January and February, a total of 525 air travellers — 400 in Ontario, 90 in Quebec, 35 in British Columbia and nine in Alberta — sought asylum upon arrival at airports, said the Canada Border Services Agency.

By contrast, 2,145 people crossed at official land border ports of entry and made refugee

claims during the same period, including 1,085 in Quebec, 905 in Ontario, 80 in Manitoba, and 35 each in Alberta and British Columbia.

In addition to the migrants who made it through the border either legally or illegally and later filed what are known as "inland" claims, Canada received claims from a total of 5,520 refugees in the two months — a 48 per cent increase from the same period a year ago. The numbers of claim-

ants arriving at land border crossings and airports for the same period of 2016 were not immediately available.

Given Canada's geographical isolation and the popularity of the United States as a destination for migrants, experts say, Ottawa historically received more refugees by air than at land borders.

However, from 2013 to 2016, with tightening air travel restrictions, claims at airport arrivals have been surpassed by

claims made at land ports of entry from the U.S. by a one-to-two ratio.

Experts say the sudden rise in land border claims can be attributed to the anti-immigrant and xenophobic policies of U.S. President Donald Trump's administration as well as Canada's full implementation of the new electronic travel authorization, or eTA, a screening mechanism that applies also to visa-exempt air passengers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



An asylum claimant and her daughters cross the border into Quebec from the United States earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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STUDY

Immigration system shifting toward more migrant workers

One out of five foreign workers becomes permanent residents, twice the rate from two decades ago, says a groundbreaking study that examines an immigration system increasingly geared toward temporary migrants.

Only nine per cent of temporary foreign workers who came in the mid-1990s successfully obtained permanent resident status, while some 21 per cent of them did by the end of 2014, according to the new Statistics Canada report.

It was the first study ever that examined Canada's national policies around attracting and retaining temporary foreign workers as immigrants.

Under the former Conservative government, Canada shifted toward an immigration system

that absorbs migrant workers who first come to the country on temporary status to meet labour market needs, compared to the old "nation-building" model that let migrants in immediately as permanent residents.

The new approach was adopted to ensure the employability of newcomers and address the "doctor-driving-cab" immigrant conundrum, but has fuelled concerns that it creates a two-tiered system, where migrant workers don't have the same protections as others and can be trapped in abusive and exploitative conditions in pursuit of permanent status.

The Statistics Canada report was released before next week's federal budget, which is expected to include further reforms to Can-

ada's temporary foreign worker programs.

The number of temporary residents entitled to work in Canada, including migrant workers and those under the international mobility program such as intra-company transfers, has tripled since early 2010s to more than 500,000, surpassing the 260,000 permanent residents settling here per year.

However, the share of higher-skilled foreign workers declined dramatically from 67 per cent in the late 1990s to just 40 per cent in the late 2000s.

"I expect the new Express Entry system that favours applicants with Canadian credentials and work experience will further amplify the outcomes of this study." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Laptop ban questioned

AIR TRAVEL

Reasons for latest change will likely never be public

You can thank Richard Reid, a.k.a. the failed "shoe bomber," every time you remove your footwear at airport security checks. The "underwear bomber" is why you have to rub your pants and get your palms swabbed for explosive residue. Limited liquid? A failed 2006 transatlantic aircraft plot.

But passengers, irate passengers, who will soon be barred from bringing laptops on their lengthy flights to the U.S. or U.K., will probably not be given a simple answer as to why. Flights to Canada may also soon be affected.

News of the surprise travel restriction began spreading Monday night and came into effect in the U.S. early Tuesday. Passengers travelling direct from eight mainly Middle Eastern countries to the U.S. will be forbidden from carrying on electronics larger than a cellphone. Airlines



U.S. and British governments are barring passengers on some flights from Middle Eastern and North African countries from bringing laptops and other devices in carry-ons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

were told they have 96 hours to comply. By Tuesday afternoon, Britain said they were implementing similar restrictions on six countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

Federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau also said Tuesday that Canada may follow the lead of the U.S. and Britain in relation to unspecified security threats.

According to U.S. reports, the new measure is not based on any specific threat or being implemented as one of the re-

active security measures that have become common in the past 15 years after failed attacks.

Which leaves many to ask not only why but what are the actual security benefits?

"We don't know what the cause is. We don't know what the reason is. We don't know what is going on," said Bruce Schneier, a security technologist and fellow at Berkman Center.

As the story spread, so did the skepticism. A New York Times report Tuesday stated that the

+ IN CANADA

If Ottawa does not issue a similar ban, Canadian airports are bound to get busier as passengers decide to bypass the hassle of U.S. travel. Emirates Airlines and Turkish and EgyptAir, among other airlines have frequent direct flights to Canadian cities.

new measure "was not based on any specific or credible threat of an imminent attack."

The TSA statement was vague, saying that the measure was based on "evaluated intelligence."

The only known attack using a laptop occurred over a year ago in Mogadishu. The East African Al Qaeda affiliate, Al Shabab, claimed responsibility for the bomb on board a Daallo Airlines flight, which blew a hole in the fuselage, sucking out the suspected bomber. The passenger jet was forced to make an emergency landing, but none of the other passengers were injured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FINANCES

Wealthy people ask to pay more in taxes

Some of the wealthiest New Yorkers are asking the state to raise their taxes.

Eighty people including George Soros, Steven Rockefeller and Abigail Disney wrote to lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo saying they and other top earners should pay more to support schools, roads, bridges and programs to help poor and homeless residents of the state.

"Now is the time to invest in the long-term economic viability of New York," the letter reads. "We need to invest in pathways out of poverty and up the economic ladder for all of our fellow



George Soros THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

citizens, including strong public education from pre-K to college. And, we need to invest in the fragile bridges, tunnels, waterlines, public buildings, and roads that we all depend on."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL DIGEST

'Piggy bank' turtle dies

Tourists used to toss coins at a green sea turtle that lived in a pond in Thailand, wishing for luck and longevity. But swallowing the tidbits turned out to be a death sentence, as after having nearly a thousand coins removed from its stomach two weeks ago, the turtle died Tuesday. AP

Bumblebee joins endangered species

The rusty patched bumblebee on Tuesday became the first officially endangered bee species in the continental U.S. Its listing means the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will devise a plan for returning the imperiled bee to "a healthy and secure condition." AP

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JESSICA ALLEN ON CONSPIRACY THEORIES



'I obviously don't believe in conspiracy theories — OK, except for this one really awesome one.'

Here is a truncated list of things that, if you believe them, will make me take you less seriously: the Earth is flat, vaccinations are part of a government plot, and Barack Obama wire-tapped Trump Tower.

Conspiracy theories conform to fit different personal ideologies: look at the permutations of 9/11 theories, ranging from anti-Semitic to anti-New World Order down to versions that confirm people's desires to live in a world where Nostradamus was right about everything.

We're predisposed to believe what we want to believe; only in the past, you had to work to confirm those beliefs — like reading all 888 pages of the Warren Report. Now, you just have to search, click, and watch.

Except for me, because I obviously don't believe in conspiracy theories — OK, except for this one really awesome one: Donald Trump is in cahoots with a Russian oligarch who goes by the nickname "the fertilizer king."

Dmitry Rybolovlev, who made his billions selling potash, was tied up in the most expensive divorce in modern history, bought a house from Will Smith, the Greek island where Jackie Onassis wed Aristotle, and an estate in Palm Beach, Florida — from Trump.

I know all of this because I've fallen down a Rybolovlev rabbit hole, for which I blame Rachel Maddow. The MSNBC host has been trying to connect the dots between



So Shaq is pretty sure the Earth is flat. Who among us can resist a juicy conspiracy theory? asks Jessica Allen. *AP*

Trump, Rybolovlev, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

Long story short, as told by Maddow: Trump sold the Palm Beach mansion to the Russian for \$50 million (U.S.) more than he'd paid for it just four years earlier. The sale came as Rybolovlev was embroiled in big bucks divorce proceedings, and Trump owed millions to Deutsche Bank, which was fined for money laundering some \$10 billion dollars, some of which belonged to Putin family members. When the CEO of Deutsche bank stepped down post scandal, he went to the Bank of Cyprus. Guess who once owned a stake in the Bank of Cyprus? Rybolovlev. Guess who was once vice chairman of the Bank of Cyprus? Wilbur Ross.

Boom!

But this line of logic led Sonny Bunch in a Washington Post column to compare Maddow to the Oliver Stone character X, played by Kiefer Sutherland, in 1991 film JFK. "This is how conspiracy theorists operate," he said. "Bury your opponent in an

avalanche of facts and suggest there's some secret connecting them all together, a Rosetta Stone you're on the verge of deciphering."

If Maddow is X, then I am the cartoonist, played by Jake Gyllenhaal in David Fincher's 2007 thriller Zodiac, who became an amateur detective trying to crack one of the most notorious serial killer cases ever. I spent all of Sunday drawing diagrams and pie charts trying to piece this Russian doll of a puzzle together. Simon watched me, his partner of 13 years who will smugly cite a study in polite conversation on how those who believe in conspiracies are more likely to score lower in intelligence tests, and asked: *Who are you?*

I don't know, but I feel pretty confident that I'm becoming my worst nightmare. And I can't stop.

I won't stop — because there are reports that Rybolovlev's private plane has landed at the same time and place as Trump's on at least four occasions (Thanks, crooksandliars.com. Also, why am I reading crooksandliars.com?) What if this Russia-Trump

FBI dossier legitimately connects the dots because the truth is out there? What if the dots pinpoint Trump as the Zodiac killer? What if Shaquille O'Neal is right and the Earth really is flat?

Even though the mansion Trump sold Rybolovlev is called "The House of Friendship," which even Oliver Stone couldn't make up, Rachel Maddow and I need to tread carefully.

We are living in a world that doesn't make sense. Maybe every age says this, but ours has actually been dubbed the "post truth age."

Jonathan Vance, a University of Western Ontario history professor who specializes in panic and paranoia, theorized to the Canadian Press that "we think that our society is so developed that bad things shouldn't happen." So when they do occur — even organically — we seek scapegoats.

"Conspiracy absolves us of responsibility and it absolves us of the fickle hand of fate," he told the news agency.

There is a glimmer of hope, though, that society is taking up its responsibility. And it comes from an unlikely place: Trump. In his war on the mainstream media, he has, in an ironic twist, boosted the subscription numbers of the "failing" New York Times.

That a man who has successfully twisted a term once used to describe actual fake news and made it a catch-all sobriquet for institutional journalism might inadvertently be the saviour of newspapers in America is almost enough to make you believe anything.

Cue conspiracy.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Budget should support private refugee sponsors

The decades-old private sponsorship program is unique in both form and tradition.

But without sufficient money and resources, the agency that manages it is struggling with a backlog of potential sponsors, and leaving Canada in danger of breaking its global promise.

As the federal budget comes down in Ottawa, this should be a top priority.

The global migrant crisis is, with or without our help, finding a way into our country.

While the right and humane thing is for Canada to match rhetoric with policy, there is one more reason to spend the money to clear the backlog: private sponsorship works.

Speaking in front of the Commons immigration committee Monday, Minister Ahmed Hussen said 53 per cent of privately-sponsored refugees had found full-time employment. For government-sponsored refugees that number is 10 per cent, he said.

Supported by the community around them, refugees are finding jobs faster than those assisted mostly by bureaucrats and agencies. The private sponsorship system allows families and community groups to pool their will, compassion and resources to help refugee families.

There are approximately 6,000 such sponsors awaiting approval by the federal government to be matched with a refugee family.

It thus came as a surprise to many families, churches, businesses and community groups to find that in mid-December, the department of citizenship

and immigration quietly put a cap of 1,000 on the number of new applicants looking to sponsor Syrian and Iraqi refugees in 2017. Some groups had been prepared to sponsor multiple families.

The change to the private sponsorship system for Syrian and Iraqi refugees was meant to ease the backlog in processing applications. Months later, the backlog persists.

At the same time that the Immigration and Refugee Board is battling a stack of applications, the government has increased the overall number of privately-sponsored refugees that it plans to allow this year from elsewhere in the world. This year, Canada is planning for a high of 19,000 privately sponsored refugees.

The agency anticipates the situation will deteriorate. It foresees as many as 30,000 claims languishing. Wait times, which refugees and their advocates say are already lengthy, will double.

Speaking to The Canadian Press, the chairman of IRB was frank that the board was doing its best but it needed more help, saying, "efficiency has increased significantly, but there is no way we can deal with 30,000 cases when we're funded for about 17,000."

Supported and embraced, refugee families are integrating. Canadian communities have shown that they are willing to do their part in the global migrant crisis.

The private sponsorship system is a workable extension of the generosity that we proclaim.

It's time for Ottawa to put the money in and figure it out.

I feel pretty confident that I'm becoming my worst nightmare.

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Why frozen is the new fresh

FOOD TRENDS

Our false idea of 'freshness' causes too much waste

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto



When Karyl Agana looks in her home freezer, only one thing belongs to her: A package of salmon.

Like so many self-described foodies, the 28-year-old finance assistant prefers to buy nearly all her fruits, vegetables and meats fresh.

"I enjoy food a lot," she said. "I go out looking for great tasting food. And I make it look pleasing."

Agana aims to make four beautiful meals a week; sourcing ingredients from her Toronto neighbourhood's abundance of grocery stores and ethnic markets.

But inevitably, some of it gets wasted: About once a month, she goes through her fridge and throws away a full

grocery bag of spoiled produce. And she's never been one to cook and freeze for later — she said she has nothing against it; it's just not what she grew up doing.

She's far from alone. According to Tammara Soma, who studies food waste at the University of Toronto's Food Systems Lab, Canadians spend a collective \$107 billion per year on food that never gets eaten, including the cost of fuel and water.

Why? Because, she said, we're obsessed with a false ideal of freshness.

"We're so detached. We've lost that whole connection between production, processing and consumption," Soma said. "We gravitate toward the idea of freshness to become comfortable with the unknowns. Fresh means healthy, fresh

means good."

Meanwhile, frozen food gets a bad rap it doesn't deserve. It's picked at peak season and preserved right away, unlike, say, grocery-store bananas, which are picked green, stored for many days, shipped across the world and ripened with ethylene gas, Soma said.

"The idea that they're fresh is quite a paradox," she added. "Fresh is a marketing concept."

And our obsession with it is costing us. The typical North American fridge (unlike European fridges, which are a bit smaller) is an "enabler as a food waste," Soma said. "We stock it up and forget about it. We buy doubles of the same thing. It's a compost bin."

But the freezer is a powerful weapon against waste. Take herbs, for example: Most people buy a huge bunch but



Tammara Soma. CONTRIBUTED

only use a few leaves, leaving the rest to rot.

Soma recommends pureeing them with olive oil and freezing them in ice-cube trays for an instant way to perk up pasta dishes and soups.

Sure, frozen fruits and vegetables can be a bit watery and mushy, which grosses some people out. But in things like soups and smoothies, you'll hardly notice.

"The more standards imposed on the food, the more opportunities there are for it to be wasted," Soma said. "It's time to implement a new measure of freshness that's simple: 'Does it smell good? Does it look edible?'"

+ FREEZE TO THE MAX EXPERT TIPS

Leanne Brown, author of *Good and Cheap*, a cookbook designed to help people on public assistance make cheap, nutritious meals gives her top tips:

Buy frozen and canned in the off-season

"You might think fresh is best, but for flavour reasons and cost reasons, pay attention to season. Fresh tomatoes right now are basically trash."

Compare prices in-store

Food prices fluctuate. "It would be nice if there were set rules; if canned and

frozen were always cheaper. They're often not."

Cook and freeze a staple

"It's as simple as making a big pot of a really inexpensive staple like beans or lentils and having that be the centre of a taco meal, and then as a side another night."

Don't use your freezer as a dumping ground

"I've made too large a portion of something and I'm sick of it. Usually it is going to the freezer to die. Label it when you put it in there."



I enjoy food a lot. I go out looking for great tasting food. And I make it look pleasing.

Foodie but non-freezer Karyl Agana



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Say it ain't dough: raw cookies a risk

FOOD SAFETY

Sweet trend is hot right now but cold batter can do damage

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto



It's every kid's dream: Licking gooey, sugary cookie dough straight off the spoon or beater.

But beware: Trendy restaurants and cafes serving raw cookie dough could be doling out a dangerous dose of harmful bacteria as well. Uncooked or undercooked eggs could be contaminated with salmonella, and E. coli outbreaks have been linked to the consumption of raw flour, too.

So ask about safety before indulging in the nostalgia-fuelled cookie dough craze. Toronto's Junked Food Co., which started scooping cones of cookie dough earlier this month — and is already going through 600 pounds of



Junked Food Co. in Toronto went through pounds of cookie dough this month, serving it like ice cream, in what's being dubbed a new dessert craze. INSTAGRAM/JUNKEDFOODCO

the sweet stuff every weekend — uses only pasteurized eggs and heats the flour to 160 C to kill any harmful bugs that might be lurking, co-owner Brian McKilligan said.

If you want to be super-safe,

the lemon flavour is totally egg-free.

The restaurant also has pints of dough available to take away — so there is the option to, you know, actually bake it and make cookies.



ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Panko bread crumbs vs. plain bread crumbs

Are regular bread crumbs and panko bread crumbs the same nutritionally?

PICK THIS

Aurora Plain Panko Bread Crumbs (per ½ cup)

Calories 110
Fat 0g
Sodium 50mg



SKIP THIS

Pastene Plain Bread Crumbs (per ½ cup)

Calories 220
Fat 3g
Sodium 800mg



HERE'S WHY



Equivalent to 4 slices of Primo Vegetarian pizza from Panago in sodium.

Panko and bread crumbs are interchangeable in cooking. However, panko has a flakier, more delicate texture and is made predominantly from white bread crumbs without the crust. Regular bread crumbs can come from a variety of breads and have a finer texture. While they are fairly similar in terms of calories and fat, these plain bread crumbs have an excessive amount of sodium compared to the panko. Add an extra crunch to your dishes with panko and save on sodium!

RECIPE

You can't spell great soup without pea

This velvety soup is thickened with cooked-down diced russet potato rather than cream but for a completely vegan version, substitute vegetable broth for chicken.

In lieu of espelette pepper, a mild chili used in French cooking, paprika can be used instead.

Cream Of Pea Soup With Pesto Oil

Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Ingredients:

For The Cream Of Pea Soup

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil
- 1 chopped medium-sized yellow onion
- 1 medium-sized russet potato, peeled and diced
- 5 cups (1-1/4L) no salt-added chicken broth
- 1-26oz (750g) bag of frozen peas
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

For The Pesto Oil

- 1/2 cup (125 mL) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) store-bought pesto

For The Garnish

- 1/4 cup (60 mL) fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 lime, cut into small wedges



Cream of pea soup with pesto oil. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

• Espelette pepper, to taste

Directions:

For The Cream Of Pea Soup

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until softened. Add diced potato and broth. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Add peas and continue to

cook for 2 minutes, or until just defrosted.

2. In a blender, purée mixture in batches until smooth. Transfer soup into saucepan and season with salt and pepper to taste. Keep warm until ready to serve.

For The Pesto Oil

3. In a small bowl, combine

oil and pesto. Strain through a fine sieve and set aside until ready to add to soup.

For The Garnish

4. Ladle soup into cups or bowls. Garnish with a drizzle of pesto oil and cilantro leaves. Serve with a lime wedge and a pinch of Espelette pepper.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAFFRON

Valuable spice could be grown in high tunnels

As spring crocus blooms approach, some growers have visions of a fall-flowering crocus that produces saffron, the world's most valuable spice.

University of Vermont researchers have been raising the exotic spice, now grown primarily in Iran, and are encouraging growers to tap into what could be a cash crop. It's not a hard sell, particularly in the short growing season of the Northeast. A crop harvested in the late fall, when others have died off, that tolerates extreme climates and yields an average of \$19 per gram.

"Is this the red gold we've been looking for?" said Patricia Fontaine, of Palmer Farm in Little Compton, Rhode Island. She, her mother and brother attended a sold-out workshop this month on growing saffron hosted by the University of Vermont that drew growers from New England and as far away as Indiana and California. The family had been searching for a crop to grow in their high tunnel, a greenhouse-like structure without heat like one UVM also used to raise the spice.

"We were looking into everything and then all of a sudden this came up, and we were like,



The process of picking saffron flowers, gathering the delicate stigmas and drying them is labour intensive. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"This can't be real," said Fontaine's brother Ryan Golembeske.

UVM researchers said the yields amounted to \$4.03 a square foot, compared to \$3.51 a square foot for tomatoes, and \$1.81 a square foot for winter leafy greens.

They estimate an acre of saffron grown in high tunnels could bring in \$100,000 a season.

The seasoning comes from the dried red threads, or stigmas, of the plant's purple flower, enhancing dishes like paella, bouillabaisse and risotto. It's also prized as a natural dye, for medicinal purposes and was used by Cleopatra in baths. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



For every dish that gets a thousand likes on Instagram, there are dozens that don't come close but that shouldn't cause you heartburn — even professional chefs get it wrong. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Exploding eggs and horrified friends

KITCHEN CATASTROPHES

Even the best cooks have an off day; here's some of worst

Karon Liu
life@metronews.ca

For every dish that makes it on to Instagram, there are a few duds better off in the garbage.

Last year, while researching the our annual cookie calendar, I spent more than a week trying to make macarons. I over-whipped my first batch and got grainy egg whites, and under-whipped the next, resulting in meringue pancakes. Oven fans blew the fragile tops off another batch, and then while tapping the tray of piped meringues on the table to get rid of air bubbles, I missed the table altogether. Needless to say, they never made it onto Instagram.

But hey, no one is perfect and at least I got a good story out of my attempts. With that in mind, we asked readers to share their harrowing tales of home cooking fails. Here are the best of the worst.

1 Zombie Sushi
(Danny Bernard, 30)
My friends and I take turns

making dinners for each other monthly. I like sushi so I thought I would give it a go. I thought I didn't need short (grain) rice and it turns out the avocado wasn't ripe enough. "Looks like a dead body thrown in a tarp," one of my friends commented. "Rice looks like maggots." My friends luckily rain-checked me. I learned from this, and the next week I got it together ... mostly.

2 Taste (and glass) explosion
(Edythe Yee, 46)

There was a glass explosion in my friend's kitchen when we were frying a bunch of food last year. The bowl was filled with glaze and was sitting on the counter in the kitchen next to my sour cream lemon cake doughnuts and my sour cherry fritter batter, both waiting their turn in the deep fryer, which was outside. We heard a loud bang and when we went to investigate, we saw glass shards everywhere: all over the counter, the next counter over, and all over the floor. We had to toss all the doughnuts, batter and the other glaze. The glaze was sitting by itself at room temperature in an air-conditioned kitchen so we don't know why it randomly exploded. No one got hurt but we were

very, very sad.

3 Thanks for the endorsement
(Corrie Pollock, 30)

I just had to send you a photo of the "60-second microwave cookie" I attempted a while ago. Not pictured: a cookie explosion all over the microwave's ceiling. This didn't stop me from trying your (microwave) mug cake recipe, which turned out absolutely perfect.

4 Slippery pie
(Susan Gow, 72)

In 1963, I left Quebec City and went to Soest, Germany, as a new bride with my husband who was serving in the Canadian army as part of the NATO forces. My new home was a small flat in a shared German home with not much kitchen equipment. I had a two-burner portable stove top and a steel-framed "glass box" for a stove that sat on a small wooden table with the burner. No matter, I had my trusty Fannie Farmer Cookbook with me that I received as a wedding present. I made a beautiful apple pie and proudly served it to my husband. He bit into it, looked puzzled, but polished it off in no time. "Wow," he gasped, "That was some slippery pie. How did you make it? I could

hardly keep it on my fork." To my horror I realized I read the recipe wrong. Instead of adding vegetable shortening, lard, or butter I added all three ingredients. All these years later, I still get teased about the slippery pie.

5 Mother knows best
(Nicole Willett, 38)

Bam! Then another. Bam! Bam! I counted a dozen. "Hide!" my mom said. A few minutes later, she grabbed a baseball bat and with a "follow me" we ventured into the kitchen. I was 8 years old when I learned that when you boil eggs and all the water evaporates, they explode and sound like a gunshot. Mom put the bat down and we spent the evening scraping splattered egg from the ceiling, floor, cabinets and stove. My mom was notorious for her kitchen fails. The pizza delivery place knew her voice and order by memory. A few years before she passed, she left me with a prized possession: A Betty Crocker cookbook with the following inscription:

Merry Christmas! Since you don't have a person to refer to when it comes to cooking, I thought you would use this! xoxo Mom.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Finally, an affordable electric



REVIEW

A low range almost doesn't factor at this price point



Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

It's unlikely this is what Hyundai had in mind for the media drive of the all-new Ioniq Electric, the brand's first real attempt at breaking into the slow-selling EV market.

What this entails is an unexpected bout of unseasonably bad weather in Kelowna, B.C. It's not unrealistic to expect temperatures around 8 C this time of year in the Okanagan Valley; instead it's about -5 C and snowing, with some freezing rain mixed in. This poses obvious problems.

Cold weather is the enemy of electric vehicles. From its effects on the battery to the additional energy needed to run the car's climate control system, range is reduced in a big way when the mercury plunges. Yet here we are, ready to set out on a journey intended to cover about 113 kilometres, or a little more than half the estimated range of the Ioniq Electric. Only our tester isn't showing anywhere near the range the car is capable of despite efforts to top up the charge.

Packing a 28-kWh battery, the Hyundai Ioniq Electric is good for an estimated 200 km of driving. That's barely better than the aging Nissan Leaf (172

km), which was introduced way back in 2010, and almost half the range of the all-new Chevrolet Bolt (383 km), though the Bolt's battery boasts twice the capacity.

Setting out for our drive from a snow-covered parking lot, the car's estimated range of about 169 km is looming.

Parlaying power from the battery to the front wheels is an electric motor and a single-speed reduction gear transmission, while a set of regenerative brakes can send energy back to the battery. While the Ioniq Electric is hampered somewhat by the additional heft of its beefy battery, the torque from the electric motor helps to disguise it and makes the car feel nimble.

While it tends to float over uneven pavement like an old Lincoln thanks to its low center of gravity created by the battery, the car features taut and responsive steering that's superior to its gas-electric sibling, the Ioniq Hybrid. It isn't, however, quite as sure-footed on slippery surfaces.

The Ioniq Electric may not compare to the likes of the Chevy Bolt — or the pending Tesla Model 3 — when it comes to range, but it has it beat when it comes to price. Base models are expected to start at \$35,000, with a fully loaded version to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$42,000. That poses an interesting value proposition when compared to virtually other EVs on the market.

Ending our drive, our tester is still showing nearly 80 km of range remaining — a feat. Hyundai's first all-electric offering impresses, even with the cold winter weather rearing its efficiency-sapping head.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 HYUNDAI IONIQ ELECTRIC REVIEW

THE BASICS

Engine: Single motor drive unit
Output: 120 horsepower, 215 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: Single-speed reduction gear
Battery size: 28 kWh
Estimated range: 200 kilometres
Price: Starts at \$35,000 (est.) (before available incentives)



LOVE IT

- Familiar driving feel
- Cabin layout
- Competitive pricing

LEAVE IT

- Quirky design
- Relatively small battery
- Adjustable brake regeneration

NO FUN

New report confirms that car buyers are boring people



Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Apparently the auto market is increasingly looking like an eight-bit greyscale, with the vast majority of new vehicles sold these days finished in a less-than-exciting quartet of colours.

That's according to a report from paint supplier Axalta, which found that an astonishing 77 per cent of cars, trucks and SUVs sold in 2016 were finished in white, silver, grey

and black. If there ever was a barometer of just how boring car-buyers have become this is it.

White led the way at 37 per cent of global sales, trailed by black at 18 per cent. Grey and silver followed at 11 per cent each. Worse still, 2016 marked the sixth consecutive year white was the No. 1 seller, which overtook silver in 2011. Line them all up and it's like our parking lots are stuck in the movie Pleasantville. (If you understand this obscure reference then you will understand how sad the

situation is.)

The picture is a slightly less bleak one in North America, with red (10 per cent) and blue (eight per cent) adding a splash of colour to the mix, though white, black, grey and silver still led the way on the continent by a landslide.

There is, however, some reprieve on the horizon. Axalta says "colourful hues are tinting traditional neutral colors" to bring colour back into vogue. Here's to a slightly darker shade of burnt orange coming soon to a dealer near you.



White has been the best selling shade since 2011 and last year it accounted for 37 per cent of vehicle sales globally. iStock



DODGE
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Lighten up

It's barely been a week since McLaren's newest supercar debuted and there's already talks of a hotter version.

The McLaren 720S was officially unveiled at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show. But it's probably less of a surprise that a McLaren 720S LT is in the pipeline, especially considering other exotic automakers are focusing on lighter, more hardcore versions like the Lamborghini Huracan Performante that set a record at the Nurburgring. Ferrari is also working on a track-oriented version of the 488. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAYENNE

High-end hybrid

The new Porsche Panamera introduced us to the Turbo S E-Hybrid powertrain which is set to spread to at least one more model. Porsche confirmed that the Cayenne will be adopting the new hybrid powertrain, which has a total system output of 680 horsepower and 628 pound-feet of torque. It is comprised of a turbocharged 4.0-liter V8 paired to an electric motor.

With its all-electric Mission E sports car on the horizon and the rise of electrification across its lineup, Porsche wants to push the idea of an electrified top-trim model. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM



LOTUS ELISE

Punching above its weight

The Lotus Elise has received minor updates for 2017, including the addition of an all-new, ultra lightweight Elise Sprint model variant.

The Sprint trim line can be specified with Elise Sport and Elise Sport 220 models and will shave 90 pounds from the outgoing Elise Sport.

Following Lotus founder Colin Chapman's famous mantra of "simplify and add lightness," the Elise Sport features a lightweight lithium ion battery that saves 20 lbs, lightweight alloy wheels saving 11 lbs and carbon fiber race seats saving 13.2 lbs.

Other standard lightweight components on the Elise Sprint means it tips the scales at 1,759 lbs dry.

SAM MCEACHERN/AUTOGUIDE.COM

NIO EVE

Can I copy your homework?

A Chinese automaker has unveiled a new EV, but Faraday Future is quick to point out the similarities.

Chinese automaker NIO made headlines earlier this year with its admittedly stunning EP9 supercar. But the NIO EP9 is a halo model for the brand. That's where the EVE Concept comes in, as a more consumer-friendly offering that the automaker hopes to put into production by 2020.

Presented at SXSW, the company says it's designed to be an autonomous "digital companion" with an artificial intelligence engine called NOMI. If you think the EVE Concept looks familiar, well Faraday Future didn't hesitate to call the automaker out since it unveiled its FF 91 earlier this year. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

+ AUTO NEWS

BMW wants to sell fully self-driving cars by 2021

BMW is laying out a timeline for its self-driving cars, planning to have them on the road by 2021.

"We are on the way to deliver a car in 2021 with level 3, 4 and 5," said Elmar Fickenstein, BMW's senior vice president for autonomous driving.

Level three autonomy still requires the driver to be focused on control of the vehicle, while levels four and five are best described as fully self-driving. The jump from level three to four will be the hardest, as it also means that responsibility is placed on the vehicle's systems, not the driver. Tech companies Intel and Mobileye are working on the brains of the system while BMW has been tasked with driving control. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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7 WEIRDEST THINGS AUTOMAKERS MAKE

Funky concept cars aren't the weirdest things automakers create. Considering how much technology goes into designing, developing and manufacturing a vehicle, it's no surprise automakers dabble in other markets. But sometimes automakers put their name on lifestyle products that seem a bit out there. Here are the seven weirdest things automakers make that aren't cars. **JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM**



1 Lexus Hoverboard

It's the weirdest thing an automaker makes that isn't a car and also the most awesome thing an automaker makes that isn't a car. Lexus created a hoverboard called "Slide" and it actually works like how you would imagine a hoverboard should. Its design features the iconic Lexus spindle grille signature shape and uses materials found in various Lexus vehicles, including natural bamboo. Now if only Lexus could get this into the hands of consumers at a reasonable price; it might actually become more popular than its cars.



2 Aston Martin Condo Tower

Now there's a condo fit for James Bond. The British automaker best known for supplying 007's supercars is branching out and developing a 66-story tower called the Aston Martin Residences in downtown Miami, Fla. Aston Martin is partnering with wealthy Argentine developers on the project and it marks the first time the company has been involved with real estate. A team from Aston Martin will actually design the building's common areas and amenities, including lobbies, fitness centers and a spa. The project was announced in October 2016 and has a current completion date of 2021.



5 BMW Bobsled

Not only did BMW craft a bobsled, it made one that carried Team USA to a Winter Olympics victory at Sochi. It was the first time Team USA took home a medal in two-man bobsledding since 1952, finishing third for the bronze medal. BMW subsidiary Designworks helped with the project, and the result was a bobsled made out of carbon fiber and taking on the sleek shape you'd find on a Formula 1 car. Now, the weight of an Olympic bobsled is fixed at 374 pounds, but engineers were able to distribute the weight cleverly, shifting the center of gravity for better steering. Sound familiar? It's not too far from how BMW approaches its cars. The German automaker reportedly spent \$24-million on the project, but that's a small price to pay for an Olympic medal.



ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

3 Lexus Sport Yacht Concept

Lexus isn't the only automaker that has collaborated on a yacht, but the Japanese automaker isn't as prestigious of a brand as say, Mercedes-AMG or Bugatti. What makes the Lexus Sport Yacht Concept so weird is that it actually employs a pair of Lexus V8 engines and styling was done by the Lexus Design Center in Toyota City, Japan. The idea actually came to life after Toyota president Akio Toyoda visited the Toyota Marine Department to spend several days on the water driving their new Ponam range of premium yachts. The company has no plans of producing the yacht for general consumers, but a bespoke one-off was done with help from the Marquis-Carver Yacht Group of Pulaski, Wisconsin.



6 Lamborghini Speaker

The Ixoost EsaVox speaker is made from authentic parts, with an original Lamborghini exhaust taking center stage. The styling features sharp lines and edges as well as a power switch shaped like the push button starter. The housing is constructed from wood and carbon fibre. And like exotic Lamborghini sports cars, the EsaVox is available in black, orange, red and yellow. It also costs over \$21,000.



4 Bugatti Hookah

Most recently, Bugatti unveiled a wildly luxurious yacht built in collaboration with Palmer Johnson. But before that, the French automaker partnered up with luxury shisha pipe maker Desvall to create a \$100,000 hookah pipe in 2013. Bugatti by Desvall is handmade in Sweden and features a pure titanium frame wrapped in special edition carbon fiber outer casing with hand sewn leather details. Production is limited to just 150 units and we wouldn't be surprised if it was all sold out by now.



7 Audi R18 Chair

Built by Clemens Weisshaar and Reed Kram in collaboration with Audi's Lightweight Design Center is the Audi R18 chair. The multi-material space frame is made from carbon composites, carbon micro-sandwich and high-strength aluminum to weigh just 4.85 pounds.

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Maple Leafs centre Brian Boyle checks Blackhawks winger Patrick Kane on Saturday in Toronto. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Boyle boosts Maple Leafs' bottom line

NHL

Babcock giving 4th line more duties with veteran centre

Brian Boyle peeks through a hole in the Air Canada Centre glass about 30 minutes before Monday's opening faceoff against the Boston Bruins to say hello to a familiar face in still unfamiliar terrain — his one-year-old son Declan.

The biggest adjustment for the 32-year-old since joining the Toronto Maple Leafs late last month hasn't been on the ice, but figuring out life off it. It's required hero's work from his wife Lauren, who's seven

months pregnant and looking after Declan as he's "running around in the airports and jumping on the luggage carousels and all that."

"That's probably the most difficult part, trying to make sure they're OK," Boyle said.

If not entirely settled away from the rink, the veteran six-foot-six centre has been a comfortable addition on it, completely altering the deployment and effectiveness of a fourth line that also includes veteran Matt Martin and rookie Nikita Soshnikov. In short, he's made the unit palatable — even desirable in some instances — for head coach Mike Babcock.

"He helps us a lot," Soshnikov said.

He and Martin were pleased in particular by how the line's usage had changed with Boyle in tow.

Babcock's trust in the American pivot at both ends means the trio is suddenly free to match up against anyone, including Russian dynamo Nikita Kucherov of the Lightning last week and Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews over the weekend. That didn't happen (on purpose at least) earlier in the year when Ben Smith and rookie Frederik Gauthier ineffectively filled the ever-shifting centre spot.

He and Martin were pleased in particular by how the line's usage had changed with Boyle in tow.

100

Boyle boasts 100 games of playoff experience.

CURLING

Homan dialed in for two more wins

Canada is on the verge of clinching a playoff spot at the world women's curling championship after a pair of victories on Tuesday.

Ottawa's Rachel Homan defeated South Korea's Eunjung Kim 9-8 before dumping Scotland's Eve Muirhead 8-2 in evening play at the Capital Gymnasium. The Canadian team improved to 7-0 in round-robin play.

"We're happy with that performance," said second Joanne Courtney after beating Scotland.

"I think we got a good handle on the ice early and it was nice to play a couple open ends to get to feel comfortable and when we had our opportunities,

we were able to capitalize."

Homan threw at 96 per cent while Muirhead finished at just 71 per cent. Scotland conceded the game after seven ends.

Sweden's Anna Hasselborg was alone in second place at 6-1 after a 9-4 victory over defending champion Alina Paetz of Switzerland, who fell to 4-3. THE CANADIAN PRESS

“There's lots of parts of the game that we're looking at and trying to improve.”

Rachel Homan

CRIME

Suspected jersey thief bragged about swag

The Mexican media executive suspected of stealing Tom Brady's jersey went to the Super Bowl as a working journalist but spent the week collecting selfies and autographs from football greats and boasting to colleagues that he was there as a fan.

Mexican journalists who were in Houston for the game and interacted with Martin Mauricio Ortega, former director of the tabloid La Prensa, told The Associated Press that he brought multiple NFL memorabilia items,

including a Kurt Warner jersey he hoped to sell to the former quarterback for thousands of dollars.

Working with U.S. investigators, Mexican authorities obtained a search warrant and recovered the jersey March 12, along with another Brady jersey that disappeared after the 2015 Super Bowl. A helmet belonging to a Denver Broncos player was also discovered, according to NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bonds rejoins Giants as a special advisor

Barry Bonds is back with the San Francisco Giants just as the club had hoped.

Bonds, who spent a one-season stint as Miami's hitting coach last year before being fired, will serve as a special adviser to CEO Larry Baer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decorated Canadian swimmer Cochrane retires

Two-time Olympic medallist Ryan Cochrane announced his retirement from swimming on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old from Victoria won Olympic silver in the 1,500 metres in 2012 in London and bronze in 2008 in Beijing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vardy gets death threats over Ranieri firing



Striker Jamie Vardy has scored just ten times this season, compared to 24 times last season. LINDSEY PARNABY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester star and his family targeted by angry fans

Jamie Vardy has gone from Premier League champion to a target of hatred.

The Leicester striker said he has received death threats amid the bitter fallout from manager Claudio Ranieri being fired by his club last month.

Vardy was named as one of the players who had conversa-

tions with Leicester's owners before Ranieri was dismissed as a result of last season's improbable champions being plunged into a relegation scrap.

Vardy's denials about playing any role in Ranieri's departure have not stopped some fans from targeting him and his family.

"The story is out there and people pick it up and jump on it and you're getting death threats about your family, kids, every-

thing," Vardy said while on international duty with England. "On social media, you name it, walking down the street. To be honest



It's happened plenty of times. It is terrifying.

Jamie Vardy

I get them every week. Football fans don't seem to like me."

It's affecting his family, too.

"I just get on with it but when people are trying to cut

your missus (wife Rebekah) up while she's driving along, with the kids in the back of the car, it's not the best," Vardy said. "It's happened plenty of times.

It is terrifying."

Vardy said he tries to ignore the abuse he gets from fans as he focuses on keeping Leicester in the Premier League and prolonging the team's incredible Champions League debut. Leicester is six points above the relegation zone and preparing to face Atletico Madrid next month in the Champions League quarter-finals.

Vardy was spotted by Leicester playing for non-league side Fleetwood Town in 2012. While the 30-year-old Vardy scored 24 goals last season, he has only been on target 10 times this year.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Refreshing Green Goddess Salad



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

- 1/2 English cucumber, sliced
- 1 handful of cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled

Directions

1. Place the first six ingredients in a blender and whiz away. Have a taste and see if it needs a bit more buttermilk to thin it out or a splash more vinegar to brighten it up.
2. Cook the asparagus in simmering water for 3 to 5 minutes until just tender. Plunge them into ice water to stop them from over cooking. Then drain and chop into bite-sized pieces.
3. Wash and dry all of your other veggies. Tear and arrange your lettuce on a large platter or on each plate.
4. Top with avocado, asparagus, cucumber, tomato.
5. Dress your salad and then top with feta.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

The play of creamy and crunchy in this salad makes it irresistible. And its green freshness is almost enough to remind us that spring is coming.

Ready in 15 minutes

Cook time: 5 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients

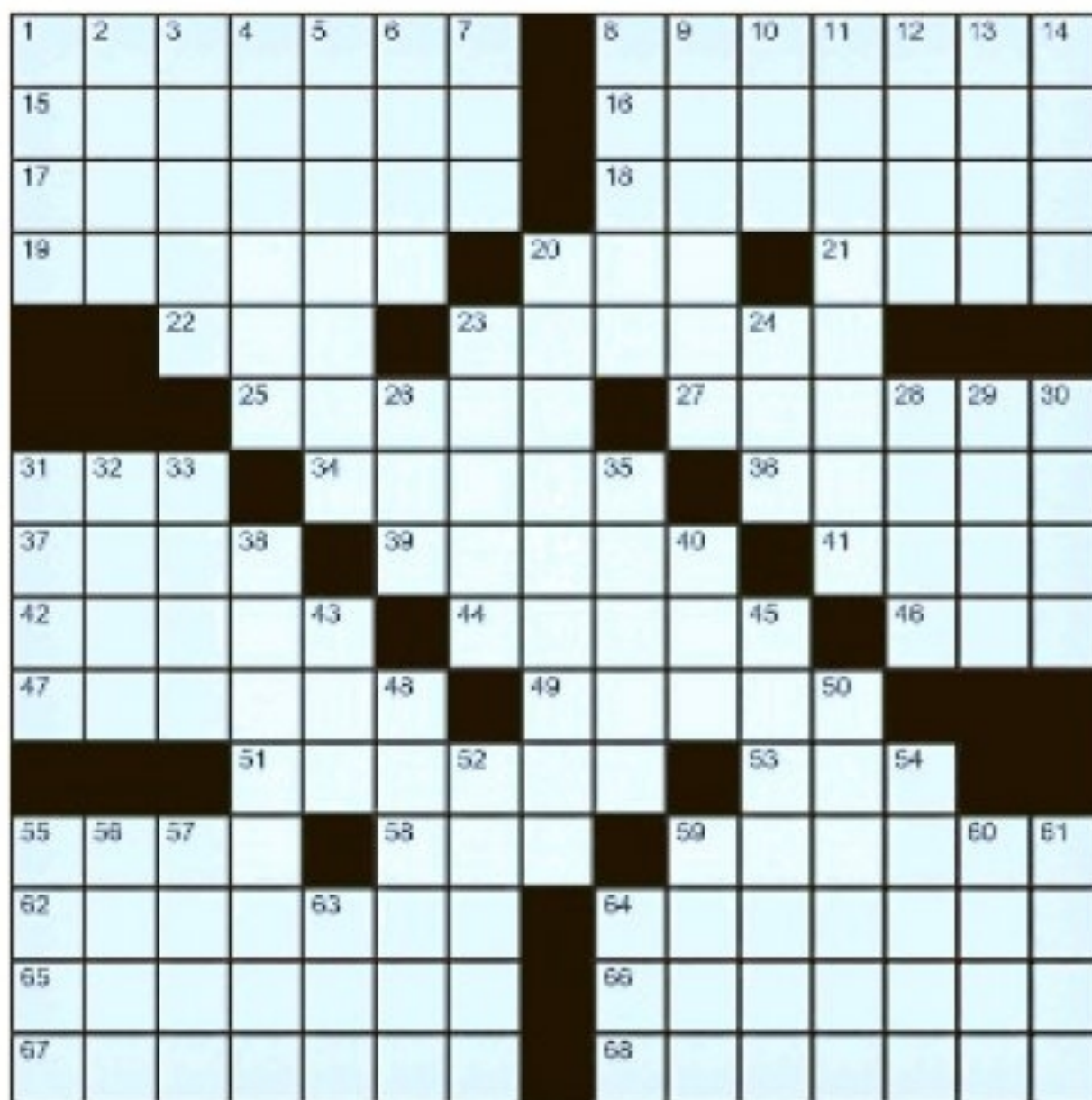
- 1/2 avocado
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp chives, basil (you could use tarragon, dill, parsley, etc)
- 3 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1 tsp anchovy paste
- 1 cup scallions
- 6 or 7 stalks of asparagus, trimmed
- 2 or 3 handfuls of Boston or Bibb lettuce
- 1/2 avocado, cubed

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. 'CANADA' as opposed to 'Canada': 2 wds.
8. Range out West
15. "Yeah, right."
16. Hospital attendant
17. Living-forever being
18. Contempt
19. "I Will Survive" by Gloria
20. Tarte, in Toronto
21. Trait carrier
22. Snugly-secluded spot
23. Cute little fish of freshwaters
25. Energize
27. Make a mistake: 2 wds.
31. Dry, like champagne
34. Pour ___ troubled waters
36. Vista
37. Hamlet genre, for short
39. Home furnishings, wallpaper, etc.
41. Prince Harry's sister-in-law
42. Heron variety
44. Beiges
46. Roman sun god
47. Inert
49. Be born as a baby bird
51. Lake ___ (1980 Winter Olympics site)
53. '___' in Halifax
55. Competent
58. "The Man ___ Fell to Earth" (1976)
59. The ___ Union
62. It flows in the direction the wind is blowing: 2 wds.
64. Alleviate



65. Grunge rock city in Washington state
66. Vitamin C sources
67. Going-against person
68. Financial field fusions

DOWN

1. Prepare for the trip, pack ___
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Architect, Frank ___ Wright
4. Mr. Wilde of "The Walls of Jericho" (1948)
5. Melanie's lasered-off tattoo

6. Seckel is a sort of
7. Canadian hockey great Mr. Apps
8. Sculptor of The Thinker
9. Get one's bearings
10. DVD-looking items

11. Appalachian Mountains village in New Brunswick
12. Latin hymn, with 'Dies'
13. Tiger Wood's ex-wife
14. Since, in ye olden days
20. The National Ballet

- of Canada's current production about a famous marionette ...more at #38-Down!
23. Skirmish
24. Alternatives
26. Singer's clip on MuchMusic, for short
28. ___ and carrots
29. Do ___ others...
30. Apple part
31. Proofer's term
32. Therefore
33. Victoria-born painter Emily
35. U.S.-Canadian airspace protection org.
38. Lumberjack in the show at #20-Down which offers a Canuck spin on the classic tale
40. Groove
43. Pop group, '___ Tuesday
45. Rhodes student at Oxford
48. Dilly-dally
50. 1974: "(You're) ___ My Baby" by Paul Anka
52. Jolliness
54. Warfare take-over
55. In addition
56. Horn's honk!
57. Spring
59. Bone-dry
60. Of all time
61. "Guarding ___" (1994)
63. The current US President's oldest daughter ...her initials-shares
64. Movie genre, ___-com

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
During conversations with bosses and VIPs today, don't volunteer for anything. Also, don't agree to anything important. (This is for your own protection.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Although you are interested in travel plans right now, do not make those plans today. Whatever you start today probably will have to be changed later.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a good day for important discussions, especially about shared property, inheritances or decisions about how to divide something. Postpone these discussions until Friday. (You will be glad you did.)

Cancer June 22 - July 23
When talking to close friends and partners today, keep things light. This is not a good day to make agreements. Things are just too fuzzy.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Just maintain your usual pace at work today and don't try anything new. Do not volunteer for anything or suggest improvements. Wait until Friday to do this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a wonderfully creative day for your sign, because your imagination is free-floating! If you work in the arts or in the entertainment world, you will have great ideas

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is the perfect day for hiding at home and relaxing. Do not shop for anything other than food or gas. Just take it easy.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a great day to schmooze and talk to others, because you feel friendly and lighthearted. Enjoy these discussions, but avoid important decisions.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a poor day for any kind of financial negotiation. Don't spend money professionally. And when it comes to personal spending, spend money on food or gas only.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today the Moon is in your sign, but it's in a hazy placement. In fact, it's a goofy day that is great for creativity and socializing, but not serious business.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will enjoy being by yourself today, especially if you can find solitude in beautiful surroundings. Basically, it's hard to get really serious about anything.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a great day to talk to others, especially a female companion. Share your hopes and dreams for the future to see what others say.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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